

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 181 - 222 are pending in the application. Early consideration and allowance of claims are respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment reducing the number of claims in the application is submitted solely for the purpose of complying with the revised rules in patent cases effective November 1, 2007. These amendments are made without prejudice should the rule revisions be repealed or revised.

Further, a Request for Refund Due To Cancellation of Claim under 37 C.F.R § 1.117 is submitted herewith requesting a refund of any fees under 37 C.F.R § 1.16 (h), (i) or (j) or under § 1.492(d), (e), or (f) paid on or after October 1, 2003, for such cancelled claims. This Preliminary Amendment and the Request for Refund are submitted before an examination on the merits of the application has been made.

With this response, the application is believed to be in condition for early action on the merits. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 312.321.4200.

Respectfully submitted,

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